

believe the coast is clear, put them in a truck and transport them north. They will have to go through a border checkpoint—or an interior checkpoint in Falfurrias, for example, which is where Brooks County is located, but what happens is, the smugglers will tell the migrants: Get out of the vehicle and walk around the checkpoint, and we will pick you up on the north side.

The problem is, this is very tough terrain and over 100-degree-plus temperature. Frankly, when some of the migrants become ill or injured, they are simply left behind to die, and that is why so many bodies have been recovered, for example, in Brooks County on a regular basis.

It is tough to imagine the toll this sort of discovery takes on a farmer or rancher, and then multiply that shock by more than 100.

Then we heard about the losses to property suffered because of this crisis—stolen vehicles, broken fences, damaged crops, vandalism, people who are afraid to let their own family members live and work on their own property because they are worried about the drugs, and they are worried about the potential violence. They talked about the safety concerns for their families and employees because drug traffickers and human smugglers go right through their backyards.

These men and women are understandably angry. They said to us: This is the United States of America, and I can't let my daughter or wife or children live and play or work on our own property? They are frustrated beyond belief because their families and employees, their homes and livelihoods are in jeopardy due to the Biden administration's failed border policies.

In case there are any doubts, I want to emphasize that what is happening on the border right now does not benefit anyone.

Border Patrol agents are stretched thin. They are frustrated. They are overwhelmed by everything they are expected to shoulder. They have been told they cannot do the job that they took an oath to perform under policies by the Department of Homeland Security, which can only be described as nonenforcement policies.

Landowners are saddled with safety concerns and financial losses.

Nongovernmental organizations, which are doing their best to help people in need, are carrying the weight of this humanitarian crisis with no end in sight. Brave Texas Department of Public Safety officers and National Guardsmen are making serious sacrifices as a result of the administration's failure to secure the border. These guardsmen and the Department of Homeland Security should not have to do a job that is the responsibility of the Federal Government, but when the Federal Government won't do its job, the State of Texas has no choice. One guardsman actually drowned while trying to save two migrants struggling to

swim across the Rio Grande River. And the migrants themselves are routinely abused, exploited, even raped and sometimes left for dead in the middle of unforgiving terrain.

The only people really winning in this crisis are the criminal organizations and the human smugglers that are getting richer by the day. These cartels are transnational criminal organizations. They will traffic in anything that makes them a buck. They are what one person has called commodity agnostic. They don't care what that commodity is; their goal is simply to maximize their profit by whatever means necessary. And there is no question that the Biden administration's policies have helped enrich the cartels and resulted in too many migrants having lost their lives.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have had the privilege of working with countless men and women who live and work along the southern border. Their experiences and input have shed light on the scope and scale of this crisis, and I am glad to be able to welcome some of our Senate colleagues to join us for an informative trip to the Rio Grande Valley. And I appreciate our colleagues taking the time to come visit the US-Mexico border for an update on the border crisis. Of course, most of them don't come from border States, but in the memorable words of one of our colleagues now, every State is a border State because the consequences of this huge migration and humanitarian crisis—not to mention the drugs that are smuggled across the border—affect every community and every State in our Nation.

I also want to thank my constituents, my fellow Texans, who took the time out of their busy schedules to educate our colleagues: the officers, the agents, the landowners, the National Guardsmen, the Texas Department of Public Safety officials, the local sheriffs, and others.

What is so shocking to me is, despite the complete security breakdown and, really, the lack of any dispute about what exactly is happening on the border, we just can't seem to get the Biden administration's attention. Landowners can tell them what it was like to discover the dead bodies of migrants who were abandoned by human smugglers, and those who do the Lord's work at nongovernmental organizations can tell the tale of migrants who were violently assaulted and raped on the way to our country, some of whom arrived pregnant. If President Biden would take a moment to sit down with these folks who live and work along the border, he may begin to learn more and view this situation for what it really is: a humanitarian and security crisis precipitated by his administration's unwillingness to secure our border.

President Biden has an open invitation to visit the Texas border, and I hope he will take us up on that. If he would, we might finally be able to get

something done on a bipartisan basis to abate this crisis and to secure our open borders.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

THE ECONOMY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, when we look back at the many failures of the Biden administration, what I believe is going to stand out is really their commitment to doing things that sound good to other Washington Democrats but really are not serving the people well. In fact, after spending another weekend working with local leaders back in Tennessee, I will take it one step further and say that all Joe Biden and the Democrats have managed to do is find new ways to frighten we, the people.

Yes, indeed, they are afraid of what this administration is going to do next because everything the White House has done over the past 18 months seems to make their lives worse each and every day. And the thing that is so interesting, as I talk to Tennesseans, this is something where there is bipartisan agreement, whether it is crime in the streets or the drug situation—much of that caused by this open border that is out of control—inflation, the price at the pump, the price at the grocery store. It is quite a stunning record on how to make the lives of the American people worse.

Joe Biden and the Democrats have spent us into 9.1 percent inflation, and now, they want to tax us into a recession. The latest scheme is terrifying. Democrats are proposing a trillion dollars in new tax increases. This includes a crippling new tax on small businesses as well as a tax increase on low- and middle-income Americans, which, if you recall, is something that President Biden said he would never do.

The Democrats are prepared to push the economy off a cliff on behalf of a radical and radically unpopular agenda that the American people have repeatedly said they did not vote for and they do not want. According to recent polling by the New York Times, 77 percent of Americans believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction, and only 33 percent of Americans approve of the way Joe Biden is doing his job. If that is not an indictment of this latest inflationary spending spree, I do not know what is.

The American people understand that one man and one party are in full control of the Federal Government and that Joe Biden and the Democrats are responsible for the uncertainty and fear that is now driving their decisions. Thank God Tennessee has strong, smart local and State leaders who take their jobs seriously, who work hard every day to represent the people of our great State.

I am about to wrap up my annual 95-county tour, and I can tell you that none of the county mayors and city managers that I have spoken to are worried about methane or proper pronoun usage. They just want to know

what we plan to do about inflation, energy costs, supply chains, crime, drugs, and the open border.

Jackson Mayor Scott Conger recently described for me the nightmare that is planning for the future of a midsize city in Joe Biden's America. Healthcare costs for police and firefighters are up half a million dollars. Between public works and public safety, fuel costs alone are projected to beat last year's total by \$450,000. And utility and sanitation costs are already 10 percent over budget.

Now, Jackson and other cities in Tennessee don't operate like Washington. They are very conservative with how they spend the taxpayers' money, and they budget for the worst-case scenario. But even when they do have money to spend, Joe Biden's supply chain crisis gets in the way.

In Jackson, delays on new orders of police cars, trucks, construction supplies have put growth on hold. They even have had to delay and scale back plans for a new homeless shelter. City officials in Dayton told me that the cost of a foot of pipe has gone up \$10 in a year, from \$4 to \$14 a foot. I would ask my Democratic colleagues how they expect local government to handle a 200-percent increase in something as basic as pipe. We know that is a trick question because there is no planning for instances like that. Covington Mayor Justin Hanson also had a message he wanted me to pass on for the record. Here is what he said:

The rising cost of goods and services is really hitting municipal pocketbooks, especially at the gas pump. The rapid inflation combined with supply chain issues are really hurting cities like Covington. Parts, chemicals, fleet vehicles . . . the list goes on. Some items ordered over a year ago still aren't in our inventory.

But I think the most shocking example of how localities have suffered under these reckless policies is happening right now in McNairy County. Now, McNairy County is a rural county, and it has fewer than 30,000 people. But the county still had to pad their budget by \$700,000 to cover fuel for the sheriff and other county-owned vehicles. That is almost a million dollars just to keep the police on patrol and the potholes filled.

We used to have such bright prospects. When Joe Biden and the Democrats took power, the economy was recovering. We were energy independent. And there was a plan to protect our supply chains. Now, instead of planning for the future, local leaders are working overtime just to keep their budgets from imploding.

Just a few short years ago, these same Tennessee leaders were focused on innovation and growth. Now, they are focused on survival. They know that the only way we will pull this country back on track is to halt inflationary spending, prioritize supply chains, and ramp up an Operation Warp Speed for energy independence.

But Joe Biden has taken us backwards. So, yes, the people are fearful of

what this administration will do next. But they continue to say they will not be frightened into submission.

I would urge my Democratic colleagues to remember that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF NINA NIN-YUEN WANG

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I wanted to share a few words about Nina Wang, President Biden's nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Judge Wang comes to this floor with a commitment to the law rooted in her earliest moments as a child, her earliest memories as a child. Nina's family emigrated from Taiwan to Kansas City when she was just 2 years old. Like my grandparents who emigrated from Poland, Nina's parents had very strong accents. They knew English, but people in their Kansas suburb couldn't always understand what they were saying. Some of Nina's first memories were ordering pizza for the family or speaking to store clerks on behalf of her parents.

Her family applied to become permanent residents, but the INS lost their application. Then, once they resolved that issue, the law had changed, and their pathway to legalization was gone. Their family spent years in legal limbo, ricocheting from one court to another. And if not for an intervention by late Senator Robert Dole, Nina's family would have fallen through the cracks.

At the time, Nina made a promise: If I can stay in America, I am going to give back to America. This experience gave Nina firsthand knowledge of the legal system's power to change lives because it changed her own. It made her cherish America's legal system, where even noncitizens have their day in court, and it inspired her to pursue a career in law.

She graduated from Washington University summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School and served as editor-in-chief of the Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. After graduating, Nina worked as an associate at an international law firm and clerked in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Colorado recognized Nina's talents and hired her as an AUSA in the Civil Division, where she managed Federal cases ranging from employment discrimination to bankruptcy, to civil rights.

Nina then went into the private sector, where, over the next decade, she rose from associate to partner at Faegre Drinker, a top firm in Denver.

In 2015, Nina began serving as a magistrate judge for the U.S. district court in Colorado.

Judge Wang now comes to the committee and this floor with 25 years of legal experience and exposure to virtually every issue that might come before the court. She also comes with a reputation for fairness and impartiality. Her colleagues tell me she doesn't grandstand. She takes the time to listen to every litigant, whether they have representation or not.

She has remained committed to the American ideal that everyone deserves their day in court, just like her parents. And I, for one, am deeply grateful that she has devoted her talent to realizing that ideal in our legal system.

Judge Wang is an exceptional nominee, with unimpeachable character, intellect, and experience. Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee appreciated that about her. That is why they sent her to this floor with a strong bipartisan vote of 14 to 8.

I enthusiastically endorse her nomination and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to confirm this outstanding Colorado nominee for our district court.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1035, Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Maria Cantwell, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator